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有戏

## ORIENTAL FANTASY

DU XI EXPLORES THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN THE 1920S  
USING HIS POWERFUL IMAGINATION AND A CHINESE SETTING. **P.4**

北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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# ENTERTAINMENT



BY DIAO DIAO

**W**ith an ensemble cast from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Korea, *Helios* was the only crime-themed action movie released during the May Day holiday. Buoyed by its handsome cast, the film took in 300 million yuan at the box office.

The story begins with Kam To-nin (Chang Chen) and his assistant Cheung Yi-kwan (Janice Man) stealing a weapon of mass destruction and 16 uranium spheres from a South Korean military factory.

Song An (Wang Xueqi), a senior official from the mainland, and his assistant Yuan Xiaowen (Feng Wenjuan) team up with Lee Yin-ming (Nick Cheung), chief inspector of Hong Kong's Counter Terrorism Response Unit, Siu Chi-yan (Jacky Cheung), a physics professor at the University of Hong Kong, and Park Woo-cheol (Choi Siwon), South Korean special agent, to recover the most powerful weapon ever made in Asia.

An adrenaline-packed thriller that brings together China's Hong Kong and mainland police, Korean special agents and professional thieves should have been an amazing movie – especially given it was shot in 3D.

Nevertheless, the jumbled story and messed up scenes managed to kill what could have been the action movie of the year.

Viewers complained that the film tried to make everyone seem like a traitor but only ended up leaving them confused and clueless.

Lok Man Leung and Sunny Luk, the directors, took the brunt of the blame. In spite of big ideas and impressive shots, the movie had an impossibly simple story. Most of the scenes failed to convey any sense of tension or danger.

The most disappointing thing was the ending, which was nothing more than a message that "The battle has just begun." The most cynical critics compared the ending to having paid money to watch a trailer.

Critics compared *Helios* to the film *Cold War*, which was also directed by Lok Man Leung and Sunny Luk. *Cold War* was criticized for failing to clear up its mysterious story, and *Helios* failed in the same way.

Both films tried to imitate *I Want to Be You*, the last breakout hit in 2002 made in Hong Kong. After a string of lackluster action films, many have started to suspect the era of Hong Kong film is fading away.

While the handsome actors may have won *Helios* a 6.0 ranking on Douban.com, it's unlikely the film will stay relevant – except as a yardstick to measure Leung and Luk's next failed collaboration. ■

## Helios Another Sign that HK Film is Dying



Kam To-nin (Chang Chen) and Cheung Yi-kwan (Janice Man)



Park Woo-cheol (Choi Siwon)



Song An (Wang Xueqi)

## Easiest Way to Learn the Art of War

BY DIAO DIAO

**S**un Tzu's *The Art of War* is the earliest recorded book of military strategy and tactics the world. It has been translated in countless languages and remains on the must-read lists of every military academy.

But the book's archaic language can be hard to penetrate. For the modern reader with little interest in classical Chinese, the book's new edition by Hua Shan, published on April 5, might be the easiest to understand yet.

*The Art of War* consists of 13 chapters that teach readers how to compare the advantage and disadvantage of the enemy in order to make the plan, how

win with skill rather than raw force, how to take advantage of natural conditions and how to analyze enemy actions.

Born in 1971, Hua Shan has a keen interest in Chinese history and religion, as well as Western philosophical traditions.

Hua spent more than 20 years studying *The Art of War* and using the annotations of famous Chinese military figures such as Cao Cao and Du Mu. His text combines their ideas with his own thinking.

The book explores many classic wars in Chinese history and uses them as case studies to enrich Sun Tzu's message.

The cases of Chinese historical wars are interesting to read, but the most creative element may be on the back cover. Hua writes that in spite of a common misconception *The Art of War* is not about "winning with strange and new strategies," it is actually about "winning with a highly prepared military force." The characters used have multiple pronunciations.

Hua also uses popular Internet lingo to make the book easily understood by younger readers. For those who complain that the classical text is too dry and boring, Hua's take might be a fun alternative. ■

这回彻底读懂《孙子兵法》

华杉讲透  
孙子兵法

通俗通晓解读经典战例，逐字逐句讲透兵法原意



华杉 著

先看封底!

Photos by douban.com



# MUSIC

## V89 THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG

BY DIAO DIAO

It wouldn't be amiss to say that the indie rock group V89 might be the best thing to ever come out of a Beijing karaoke bar – the venue that first brought Sheng Yichen, Han Jianliang, Ji Zhichao and Chen Jintao together.

The band is known for hard rock and funk, styles best exemplified by their popular songs “The Flight to Xiamen” and “Daydream.”

Though the melodies and lyrics are impressive, the band has only been around for two years and its members are quite young.

Sheng, the founder and lead singer, works in an instrument shop and recording studio. He fell in love with rock when he was in high school and heard a record shop blasting Nirvana's “Where Did You Sleep Last Night.” The grungy guitars pulled Sheng into a world of music he never knew before.

But as is a recurring theme in the Chinese music scene, his parents didn't understand. “They thought that I should get a decent and stable job in a state-owned company,” Sheng said. “They only let me pursue music if I agreed to finish university and look for a normal job first.”

Han, the boss of an instrument shop near Xijiekou, was one of the few people Sheng knew at the fateful karaoke party. “I was feeling upset about running my business. I knew it wasn't my dream career,” Han said.

He sold his shop right away and joined Sheng to build a band as the lead guitarist.

Han started to play guitar in middle school, but his parents were strongly opposed to letting him study music. His dad fought his ambition until the day he died. His mom eventually gave up and allowed Han to enroll in music school. The small stage only bolstered his determination.

Ji, a local guitar teacher, also joined the band as its bass player. His parents didn't oppose Ji's choice to join the band, but neither did they support him.

For Ji, rock is a world that offers encouragement whenever he begins to reflect on his younger failures. “Working in music is not just because of my personal interest. It's how I show my gratitude to the artists who helped me get through life,” Ji said.

Chen Jintao was the last member to join. Chen came to work in the instrument shop with Sheng and was surprised to learn Sheng was one of his teacher's friends. Today, playing drums is Chen's sole job.

Chen may be the luckiest member of the band. Although his parents were against him quitting school to play drums, Chen convinced them to let him withdraw during middle school to pursue a musical career.

“My parents are happy about what I'm doing. I often share some photos and videos on Wechat and they like my posts,” Chen said.

He shares his Beijing flat with two other young men who are both members of other bands.

Sheng said the hardest thing about playing music in Beijing is losing members to personal financial problems. Two of the band's first six members decided to quit for such reasons.

“We felt upset about their leaving but we understood. We think that to some extent it's good for the band to experience the new ideas and styles brought by new members,” Sheng said.

V89 released their debut EP earlier this year. On June 20 they will release their first full-length album and begin a national tour. ■



Photos by V89 Band

## LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

### Egil Olsen China Tour @ Mao Live House

Egil Olsen is a folk musician from Norway. His songs are regarded as bedtime favorites, and his lyrics tell both the happiness and darkness of life. Olsen travelled throughout much of Europe with his guitar. His new music video, “I am a Singer-Songwriter,” was awarded in Norway. Now he is touring eight Chinese cities.

May 22, 8-9:30 pm  
111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
100 yuan (early bird), 120 yuan (pre sale), 150 yuan (at door)

### Liu Donghong & Sand Band @ 69 Cafe

Liu Donghong is one of the top names in Chinese rock. He founded Sand Band in 1996. Their first album, *Stars Fall on My Head*, is considered a classic of the 1990s. In 2009, Liu and his band released a new album titled *A World That Changed into Fairytale Long Ago*. The songs feature a more mature sound.

May 23, 9:30-11:30 pm  
9 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng  
40 yuan



### The Push @ Yugong Yishan

The Push is a psychedelic rock band. They released their first album last year and the accompanying show was regarded as the year's best. They also won the Best New Band Award at the 2015 Chinese Music Media Awards. The Push uses light effects and visual aids to present their music.

May 23, 9-11:30 pm  
3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
80 yuan (pre sale), 100 yuan (at door)

### Marine Ball Party @ Hot Cat Club

The three-day party at Hot Cat Club is divided into three sections. On May 22, an electro dance party, May 23, a retro dance party, and May 24, a folk party. Er Yi band, Chaoche Leida, Ice Whiskey and others will join the event.

May 22-24, noon-11 pm  
46 Fangjia Hutong, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng  
30 yuan (pre sale), 50 yuan (at door)



# ARTISTS



The Group of Sea Gulls Show



Boy Scouts on the Merry-go-round

## Oriental Spirit in the Fantastic Realism



Sweet Childhood



Red Sky

BY WANG LINGXIAO

**T**he early 20th century is remembered as an era of humiliation in Chinese history. But for the outside world, it was a time of rapid advancement. The industrial revolution was in full swing, and many scientists emerged with significant theories and amazing inventions.

As an artist who is keen on history, Du Xi explores industrial reforms and that era in China using his powerful imagination. His Industrial Reforms series is one the four sections in his 2014 album of paintings titled *Daydreams on the Canvas*.

"I love the world in my paintings. It's the adventurous and romantic world that every boy dreams about in his childhood," he says. "The themes I pick are always related to what I'm interested in at a certain period, whether a book, a movie, or anything else that can inspire me."

Du's interest in history comes from the stories of his grandfather. "Most of my favorite childhood memories involve talking about history or literature with my grandpa while playing chess," Du says.

*The Flying Ark*, completed in 2013, marked a turning point in Du's art style. This painting depicts eight people from different classes in modern times seated on a flying balloon ark that bears the character "dragon."

"I originally intended to paint the legend of The Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea. But at the time I was reading a book about reformers in China, so this idea popped into my mind. I changed the eight images of the gods into different modern figures and their boat became an airship, symbolizing industrial development," Du says.

After several months of work, the finished painting gave him a new direction for his art.

Soldiers are a recurring theme in his paintings. Born in 1980 in Kunming, Yunnan province, Du grew up in a military family.

"But in reality, the military and war have left cruel impression on people. So I put my sol-

diers in an imaginary world," Du says. "Additionally, I'm interested in the atmosphere of older times, so most of the pieces are set at the dawn of the 20th century."

*The Group of Sea Gulls Show* depicts a steam ship setting off from the harbor. Sailors in white naval uniforms wave good-bye to the people on the shore. Beneath the seemingly pleasant atmosphere is unease and sadness, because the people can't guess whether the sailors will make it back alive.

"I hope viewers can connect with the ideas behind my paintings," he says.

It's not hard to find Chinese elements in his works. Cirrus clouds, clothing, seawater, weapons and stone lions are drawn delicately. The structures and colors of these traditional symbols seem inspired by ancient paintings, although Du relies on oil painting skills to express them.

After graduating from Yunnan Arts University, Du studied in the US from 2004 to 2005. His uncle, Shang Ding, is an oil painter who lives in California, and Shang helped him to communicate with American artists.

But the cultural differences were hard for him to overcome.

"Experiences play an important role in one's understanding of arts. It's very difficult for a foreigner to surpass a native in understanding his culture," Du says. "After coming back, I found the most touching thing was the oriental spirit I had learned since birth."

Du's work is mainly exhibited at galleries in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. He works in Beijing during the spring and fall, and is beginning to work with several domestic organizations.

Aside from oil paintings, Du has also experimented with printmaking and sculpture in his present series as well. He says he plans to expand to other painted media, videos and installation as the series develops. ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Soldier Sculpture



artand.cn/duxi  
@杜溪DUXI



# A TRAVEL

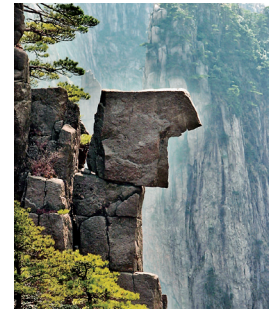
## Scale the Peaks of Baishishan Geopark

BY SHU PENGQIAN

Located in Hebei's Laiyuan County, Baishishan is a sprawling geopark that consists of Mount Baishishan, the Shipuxia Canyon and the Jumayuan Springs. The park offers a relatively near escape from the bustle of the capital's downtown and its occasionally toxic air.



Photo by CFP



Photos by lvyou.baidu.com



Photo by photofans.cn

### Mount Baishishan

With its strange rocks, steep hills and abundant vegetation, Mount Baishishan has been praised as "the most beautiful mountain in the North."

The mountain has more than 100 peaks, with the main peak rising to a height of more than 2,096 meters. Mount Baishishan is similar in form to Anhui's famous Mount Huangshan, and it is sometimes known as "the little Huangshan."

Tourists would be well advised to prepare their water and food in advance: everything in the scenic zone is extremely expensive.

The point of mountain climbing is to appreciate scenery, so tourists should banish the thought of reaching the summit via modern vehicles. No matter whether tourists take a sightseeing bus or cable car up the mountain, both vehicles are incapable of going more than half the way.

There are three touring route: Twin Stones Tourist Route, Buddha Light Summit Tourist Route and Feihu Canyon Tourist Route. The three routes are linked as a ring, so tourists don't need to fret over which is best.

Tourists out to admire the rocks can find their names on nearby placards. The most famous include the Celestial Basking Boot, Jiang Taigong Fishing, Dolphin Coming Out of the Water, Zhu Bajie Carrying His Wife, The God of Taihang Mountain, Three Caves, and the Pilgrimage of Three Buddhas.

According to the legend, in ancient times, many people came to the mountains to cultivate themselves and study the way. They would practice day and night without rest. Eventually they became one with nature and turned into the god of Mount Baishishan.

The rocks were supposedly shaped by locals who were moved by the story.

Mount Baishishan is also known for its sea of clouds. You can appreciate the natural spectacle from three viewing spots: the Pavilion Overlooking the Sea of Clouds, the Meeting of Winds and the Buddha Light Summit.

The clouds are usually only seen in summer and autumn, and only then on the right day. They usually appear after a rainy night and before a sunny day.

The mountains also include a more modern addition: a glass skywalk along a cliff that is China's widest and longest.

The peak of Mount Baishishan offers a panoramic view of Laiyuan County down below. It's possible to see as far as the Langya Mountain in Hebei province and Mount Wutai in Shanxi province.

### Shipuxia Canyon

As the name suggests, Shipuxia Canyon consists of 10 waterfalls lying in a canyon between the mountains.

Ten waterfalls with various features, plus bizarre rocks, constitute wonderful Shipuxia Canyon.

This place is suitable for summer tourism.

### Jumayuan Springs

The Jumayuan Springs occupies an area of 6 square kilometers.

Although many famous domestic springs around the country have been drying up, the Jumayuan Springs continue to put forth new water.

Because of its large number of springs and large quantities of spring water, Laiyuan is named as "Spring County."

(Shu Pengqian is an intern at Beijing Today.)

### Mount Baishishan

☉ 7 am - 6 pm  
💎 150 yuan

### Shipuxia Canyon

☉ 7 am - 6pm  
💎 35 yuan







# Q CLASSIFIEDS

## ART



### Muted Mysteries

The ancient poet Bai Juyi once commented on the month of April: "In realm of men, after the fourth month, blossoms have all but spent." The tranquil season of spring belongs to the world of poems. In northern China, spring heralds a long process of bidding farewell to winter and constitutes the dawn of a new world.

As April heralds a tranquil spring, four artists will present four approaches to viewing the world.

After his series of architecturally inspired works, Meng Zhigang started to take an interest in the spaces of everyday life. He searches for generic, abstract spatial patterns in the mundane, concrete realm of life. He primarily depicts pure geometric spaces, such as the oft-reappearing Taihu-stones with their oriental aesthetic sensibilities. The stones combine objective spaces from everyday that carry cold, abstract overtones with objects that have a tranquil, oriental beauty.

The paintings of Meng Zhigang possess an ethos of divine embodiment. Guo Lijun similarly portrays spaces of everyday life. Meng is more concerned with the structural beauty of everyday spaces, while Guo attempts to capture the spaces of everyday life in mirrored objects. In his creations, Guo uses performance as a method of expressing these mirrored images, imagined and real at the same time.

- ⌚ 10 am - 6 pm, May 26
- 📍 EGG Gallery, 327 Caochangdi, Cuige-zhuang, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 6432 8089
- ✉ eggartgallery@sina.com
- 🌐 eggartgallery.cn

## CULTURE



### Yunnan Culture Festival @ Crowne Plaza

Crowne Plaza Beijing Sun Palace will present the seventh Yunnan Culture Festival from May 29 to 31. During the festival, guests will be able to join the water splashing celebration of the Dai New Year with singing and dancing. Sun Palace is also serving a buffet of Xishuangbanna barbecue, Yunnan snacks, juices and rice wine.

The Water Splashing Festival, also known as the Festival for Bathing Buddha, is the New Year celebration of the Dai ethnic minority. This celebration includes light-hearted religious rituals that end in merrymaking where everyone ends up splashed with water, a symbol of religious purity and goodwill.

The Crowne Plaza Beijing Sun Palace celebrates the festival every April, or in May if the weather is too cold. Come for the cultural dances, cuisine and bazaar.

- ⌚ 4 - 9:30 pm, May 29 to 31
- 📍 Crowne Plaza Beijing Sun Palace, Yunnan Dasha, 12 Middle Street, Chaoyang (northeast corner of Taiyanggong Bridge)
- 💰 228 yuan net per person
- ☎ (010) 6452 1616

## COMMUNITY



### Football Night

Want to play football in Beijing? Or are you just a fan who wants to support a local club as a social member? Find a team and sign up at this monthly social organized by the Beijing Celtic Football Club and the International Friendship Football Club (IFFC).

From 8 - 11 pm, get a bucket of Tsingtao beer for 80 yuan, or buy-one-get-one free mixed drinks and Beijing draft. Alternatively, 98 yuan will take you into overtime with free Beijing draft until midnight.

There'll also be classic football documentaries on the big screen throughout the night.

- ⌚ 7:26 - 11:26 pm, May 5 and June 2
- 📍 Paddy O'Shea's, 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 6415 6389
- 🌐 paddyosheasbeijing.com



### Cooking Class: Zhajiangmian

What dish is Beijing famous for? If Peking duck is all you can think of, then it's time to attend a zhajiangmian cooking class.

The authentic Beijing noodles are mixed with a soybean paste and fried with a selection of shredded vegetables. It's the easiest thing to whip up for yourself or to impress your friends!

On top of learning some valuable kitchen vocabulary and traditional Beijing cooking, you will be surrounded by other food lovers and might make a few cooking buddies. One way or another, you will come away knowing that you have become a little bit more of a Beijinger and your taste buds will definitely be given a treat.

Add that's mandarin school on your WeChat to win a free voucher for the event.

- ⌚ 6 - 8 pm, May 22
- 📍 That's Mandarin, 1/F, Office Bldg B, Xinzong Yuan, Xinzong Jie, Dongcheng
- 💰 100 yuan
- ☎ (010) 5218 6432
- ✉ info@thatsmandarin.com
- 🌐 thatsmandarin.com

## MUSIC



### Grammy-Nominated MIKA

Split Works is proud to bring Grammy-nominated singer songwriter MIKA for his debut tour of China. Prepare for a high energy, high-color glitterball of showmanship underpinned by some of the most infectious songs in popular culture.

MIKA began his pop career in 2007 with the defining single "Grace Kelly," which went on to sell more than 3 million copies worldwide and become the second British single to top the chart on downloads alone. It was No. 1 in the UK for five weeks and topped the charts in six other countries. Total single sales from his debut album *Life in Cartoon Motion*

exceeded 6 million, and the album itself went straight to No. 1 in the UK and 11 other countries.

His second album *The Boy Who Knew Too Much* (2009) built on this success, making it into the Top 10 in more than 10 countries. His third album, *The Origin of Love*, was released to international acclaim in 2012 and included the hit single "Celebrate," featuring Pharrell Williams, and US smash hit "Popular Song," which was later reworked as a duet with American Nickelodeon sensation Ariana Grande.

MIKA has been nominated for and won awards from the Brits, the Grammys, the Ivor Novello Awards, the NRJs and The World Music Awards. He was also the recipient of the prestigious French Chevalier Dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

- ⌚ 7:30 - 9:30 pm, May 29
- 📍 Hit FM Live (Tango 3F), 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng
- 💰 380 yuan, or 480 yuan at the door
- ☎ (010) 6425 5677 or (010) 6428 2288
- 🌐 clubtango.cn



### Magma

With their strange and beautiful blend of free jazz, classical, blues, progressive rock and pop, the band Magma burst onto the music scene in 1970. In their 40-year career, Magma has recorded an impressive amount of records and albums, many of which are centered on the mystical legend of Kobaia, a planer settled by refugees from Earth in the distant future.

Magma's songs are all sung in Kobaian, a language invented by the band, which fans of Magma have actually learned to decipher and speak to one another. Their most famous albums include the trilogy Theusz Hamtaahk, Wurdah Itah and Mekanik Destruktiw Kommandoh, featuring songs of unbelievable precision and intensiveness for the avant-garde public.

A legendary French group if there ever was one, Magma has continued to influence the world of contemporary music since their debut.

- ⌚ 9 - 11 pm, May 30
- 📍 Yugong, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng (100m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway station)
- 💰 300 yuan (door) or 240 yuan (presale)
- ☎ (010) 6404 2711
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yopay.cn/event/magma-bj



# FOODS

## Poetic Zhejiang Cuisine



Bingtang jiayu  
Photo by xldujia.com

BY WANG YAN

One of the best parts of living in Beijing is being able to satisfy any craving for any kind of Chinese food – whether it's spicy southwestern hotpot or dainty southeastern dishes.

While most foreigners have had the occasion to try spicy hotpot, fewer have tried Dongpo meat, a kind of red, braised pork belly named for a Chinese poet. The dish is the most famous in Zhejiang cuisine.

As one of the eight famous culinary schools of China, Zhejiang cuisine has a reputation for freshness and mellow fragrance. And that is what defines Zhejiang cuisine: it's delicious, delicate and romantic.

Zhejiang has long been known as "the land of fish and rice," and the province's food is dominated by rice. The cuisine includes specialties from the cities of Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shaoxing.

Among the three cities, dishes from Hangzhou are the most famous. Hangzhou



Zuiji



Dongpo meat

cuisine is known for its elaborate preparation and varying techniques of cooking such as sauteing, stewing, stir-frying and deep-frying.

But behind every sweet or savory dish is a story. One of the most famous desserts in the city is named Happy Pairs. The dessert is a pair of buns stuffed with sweet bean paste or another treat. Locals say the dessert is inspired by the tragic story of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, also known as the Butterfly Lovers.

Specializing in steamed, roasted and braised seafood, Ningbo cuisine is particularly known for retaining the original freshness of aquatic food. The city's seaside location gives it access to

fresh seafood.

The most famous dish in Ningbo cuisine may be Bingtang Jiayu, steamed turtles in crystal sugar soup. The bright golden color from the sugar soup whets the appetite, and the dish is a rich source of protein, iodine and vitamin B.

As a city known for its huangjiu, most Shaoxing food is cooked in mild local wines. The cuisine also offers fresh seafood and poultry that has a special rural flavor. With its tender, smooth and delicate taste, dishes here boast a refreshing flavor and mild fragrance.

If you've eaten in a Shanghai restaurant you might have seen "drunken chicken" on the menu; however, the dish is in fact a Shaoxing dish. The main ingredient is Shaoxing's Yue chicken, birds known for their delicate texture. After being boiled, pickled with some flavoring and cooked with cane sugar, the chicken is mixed with local wine to give it a light liquor fragrance.

Each of the three traditions is noted for its special flavor and taste, but all are characterized by a careful selection of ingredients, delicate preparation and fresh and tender taste.

Su Dongpo once wrote a poem while drinking on Hangzhou's West Lake: "Glistening sunlight on the lake, best when the sky is clear; The hills shrouded in mists, rain has its own charm; I'd like to compare West Lake to West Lady; Her make-up, whether heavy or pale, is always just right."

Although dedicated to the lake, it could also describe Zhejiang's cuisine: whether heavy or pale, it's always just right. ■

(Wang Yan is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Dongpo meat

## Green Tea

BY WANG YAN

With a waiting line that can stretch up to 50 meters, Green Tea is one of the most popular restaurants in Beijing. It is sought-after because it offers good Zhejiang food at a reasonable price. The original branch in Hangzhou is a must-try for visitors.

Green Tea has more than 12 branch stores in Beijing, and most of them are located in commercial areas such as Sanlitun and Xidan. A major characteristic of the restaurant is that it offers a variety of choices – its menu resembles a Chinese phone book.

One of the highest rated and most popular dishes in the restaurant is Bread Seduction (28 yuan). The dessert is a square piece of toasted white bread with a scoop of ice cream on top. It comes sliced into square pieces and you can use a toothpick to take the cubes out of the bread.

Green Tea also serves the poetic Dongpo meat (10 yuan). Given the price, it is clear that the dish is made in high quantities instead of the more delicate, traditional way. Nevertheless, the pork belly remains tender and fatty.

There are plenty things worth waiting for at Green Tea: for instance, the Fruit Water Ice (18 yuan) is a perfect choice for Beijing's summer. With fresh fruits and bright color, the smooth and milky water ice will definitely refresh you during the summer.

Another highly recommended dish in the restaurant is the fire shrimp (39 yuan). It comes as a pack of skewered shrimps wrapped in foil. People like the dish for more than just its tender texture – before you eat it, the waiters will ignite the foil and that showmanship adds to the fun. For diners just getting to know each other, the fire shrimp can be an icebreaker. ■



Photos by dianping.com

### MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

## Learn to Make Fish Head Soup

BY WANG YAN

The idea of cooking fish heads may not sound glamorous to some Western palates, but it's worth taking a step outside your comfort zone to try something different. This simple recipe will help you make a fresh, nutritious soup that has its roots in Zhejiang cuisine.

### Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 fish head
- ☐ 2 blocks of tofu
- ☐ 1 sprig of coriander
- ☐ 1 scallion
- ☐ 3 thick slices of ginger
- ☐ salt
- ☐ sesame oil



Photo by nipic.com

### The Steps:

1. Clean the fish head and cut it in half down the middle. Peel and slice the ginger.
2. Add some oil to a wok and stir fry the fish head. Add the ginger.
3. Add water to a saucepan and bring it to a boil. Add the fried fish head to the water and cook for 15 minutes.
4. Cut the tofu into small cubes. Clean the scallion and coriander and chop them into small pieces.
5. Add the tofu cubes to the saucepan and boil for another 5 minutes. Add the scallions and coriander.
6. Add the salt and sesame oil.

### Green Tea Restaurant

4F, Shimao Department Store, 13  
Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang  
(010) 8895 7388